GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3114
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2003
DRINKING WATER PROBLEM IN RURAL AREAS
PARSURAM MAJHI

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has suggested any measure to deal with the growing drinking water problem in the rural areas of the Country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to resolve the problem of drinking water in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL)

(a) to (c) The Steering Committee set up by Planning Commission on Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation for the Tenth five-year Plan has suggested adoption of demand-driven approach in Rural Drinking Water Supply with Government playing the role of a facilitator instead of provider. For this emphasis has been laid on empowerment of villagers to ensure their participation at all levels, from planning designing, location, implementation and management. The stress has also been laid on water conservation, rainwater harvesting, ground water recharging, revival of traditional sources of water, recycling of waste-water etc.

Government of India have adopted the reforms in the rural water supply sector through Sector reform pilot projects in selected 67 districts, which have since been scaled up as Swajaldhara based on the following principles: -

- Adoption of a demand-responsive and adaptable approach based on empowerment of villagers to ensure their full participation in the project through a decision making role in the choice of scheme design, control of finances and management arrangements.

- Shifting of role of Government from direct service delivery to that of planning, policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation and partial financial support.

- Partial capital cost sharing either in cash or kind or both and 100% responsibility of O&M by users.